

Mayor Steve Adler
Mayor Pro Tem Garza
Councilmember Harper-Madison
Councilmember Rentería
Councilmember Casar
Councilmember Kitchen
Councilmember Flannigan
Councilmember Pool
Councilmember Ellis
Councilmember Tovo
Councilmember Alter

cc:

Urban Transportation Commission
Austin Transportation Department

Mayor and Council,

AURA calls for immediate action to legalize electric pedicabs.

Austin should simplify riding a pedicab and making a living doing it. We've heard from pedicabbers that earnings are way down since Uber and Lyft rode into town, made their own rules, and then went around the city to the state legislature, and then earnings went down again after scooters started operating before rules were written for them.

The pedicabbers have always worked with the city and played by the rules. They carry insurance, have design guidelines for safety, and have a strong Austin cultural identity. More importantly, they are often a safer alternative to single-rider micromobility and a greener, safer alternative to car-based rideshares.

Every effort should be made to remove barriers to pedicabbers and pedicabs, especially given the regulations around TNCs and scooters. Council should immediately allow electric motors for all pedicabs, should allow them to operate anywhere that bicycles are allowed to operate, and should allow them to carry more passengers, at any time of day. Any design criteria not absolutely necessary for safety should be eliminated.

Let's keep it simple. Let's make it easier for pedicabbers to earn a living in Austin and easier for Austinites to get a safe, low-carbon ride. There's no need to delay.